

No. 26,914.

EARTHQUAKE KILLS 1,000 U.S. PLANS QUICK RELIEF

Guatemala City in Ruins and Many Thousands of Residents Homeless.

MOST PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND DWELLINGS WRECKED

American Legation and Consular Buildings Destroyed—Martial Law Declared, Looters Shot.

By the Associated Press.
NEW YORK, December 31.—An estimate of 1,000 persons dead in the earthquake ruins at Guatemala City is contained in a telegram received here from the Central and South American Telegraph Company's manager at San Jose, Guatemala, who returned to San Jose from Guatemala City yesterday afternoon. The message reads:

"The legation and American consulates are badly wrecked. Forty per cent of the houses in the city are demolished; most of the others have collapsed and are uninhabitable. The penitentiary, asylum and ministerial buildings are all wrecked. The post office and large churches are demolished.

"Martial law has been declared and several looters have been shot. The president of Guatemala has ordered the inhabitants of the city to leave. Terrible earthquake shocks continue at intervals of about five minutes. The death toll is estimated at one thousand. All telegraph wires in the interior are again silent."

Details of the Disaster.

SAN SALVADOR, December 31.—Guatemala City, capital of the republic of Guatemala, has been completely destroyed by an earthquake. Many persons were killed in the disaster, some in their homes and others in the streets.

The Colon Theater, which was filled with people, collapsed. There were many casualties among the audience.

Various hospitals and asylums and the prisons were badly damaged and many patients and prisoners were killed.

The railroad depot, sugar mills, post office, the American and British legations, United States consulates and all the churches in the city have been leveled.

Deep fissures opened in the middle of the city.

The inhabitants in panic have fled from the capital. More than 80,000 persons are homeless. The stock of provisions in the city is scant and aid is required promptly.

The Salvadorean government has suspended the official New Year celebration and entered into mourning in sympathy with Guatemala.

Scene of Many Disasters.

Earthquakes have been prevalent in Guatemala since the day after Christmas when the heaviest shocks came throughout the republic. With each recurrent shock the damage in Guatemala City, the capital of the republic, has grown more extensive. Last Thursday it was reported that from ten to forty persons had been killed in the diabolical shocks. The heaviest night, while dispatches of Friday and Saturday indicated that 80 per cent of Guatemala City had been demolished and thousands of persons were homeless. Martial law had been declared and good order was said to be prevailing.

Guatemala has been the scene of many disasters, the results of earthquakes. Since the settlement of the country in 1522 there have been more than fifty volcanic eruptions, and in excess of 300 earthquakes. The original Guatemala City was destroyed in 1541, and the present city was founded by a deluge of water from a nearby volcano, which was rent by an earthquake. The heaviest shocks came about 9 a.m. on December 26. Further shocks were reported on Friday, December 28, at 4:22 p.m. but the heaviest shocks came at 5:57 p.m. Saturday, December 29. It appears that this last disturbance was the one which caused the most damage.

Report to Navy Department.

A cablegram to the Navy Department yesterday said 125,000 persons were in the streets without shelter, and that the number were killed by falling walls.

Naval vessels in Central American waters have been ordered to Guatemala to render all possible assistance.

Following is the brief dispatch which brought the news of the catastrophe: "A terrible earthquake yesterday finished

(Continued on Second Page.)

THE WASHINGTONIAN A CATECHISM.

THEODORE W. NOYES.

(7) On what other grounds than an American right and privilege do you seek national representation?

This distinctive American privilege decorates the American with a badge of national representation with power. Its lack slurs the Washingtonian as un-American and defective, and slurs the nation as un-American and impotent.

What the amendment proposes is equitable in itself and compulsory in accordance with American principles and traditions.

It gives to residents of the District a self-protecting power in the national councils which is denied to the residents of no other community in all of the mainland and contiguous United States from Maine to Texas and from New York to California.

This status, this right, this privilege, this power is supremely beneficial and to be desired by the residents of the District.

National representation of the District will remove from the nation the shame of impotency and from Washingtonians the slur of unfitness.

It will proclaim to the world that the great republic is as devoted to the principles of representative government as it is capable of enforcing them as other republics with capitals in nation-controlled districts, like Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. The nations have not found themselves impotent to give full national representation to the people of their capitals.

It will proclaim to the world that the people of Washington are as fit to participate in national representation as those of any other city in the world whose people, slurred as tainted or defective, are unworthy to enjoy the national representation as those enjoyed by all other cities of the nation.

Washington will cease to be the only American community—numerous, intelligent, prosperous, public-spirited patriots—in all the expanse of continental and contiguous United States whose fitness to exercise national privileges as well as to bear national burdens is denied.

There is no resident of the capital who is not a citizen of the nation. No citizen of the nation is not a resident of the capital. No citizen of the nation is not a resident of the capital.

It will relieve the nation of the shame of an un-American act and heart and soul to cure this evil.

It will insure no injury or hardship upon either nation or capital to consummate this act.

It will give to the nation a new and better representative government.

The amendment is so worded, as to include in the national representation the people of the District of Columbia.

It became evident last year that Congress would not favor an amendment to the constitution which would give to the District of Columbia the same status as the States.

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TABERNACLE IS A REFUGE FROM COLD FOR MANY

Big Sunday Structure to Be Open Day and Night as Long as Bitter Weather Lasts.

The "Billy" Sunday tabernacle became a place of refuge from the bitter cold today, when the big structure was thrown open to those who had no means of keeping themselves warm.

Chairman Chance of the local committee announced that the tabernacle, heated today for the first time, will be available to anyone who wants to come in and stay.

The tabernacle will be open day and night for this purpose as long as the cold weather lasts, Mr. Chance announced.

Thousands May Find Comfort.

Thousands may be accommodated, he said, in the big structure, which is being used as a place of refuge for the homeless and the poor.

Only one door, No. 30, on E street, will be open, and those seeking the warmth of the tabernacle should seek entrance by that door. The remaining twenty-three doors of the structure will not be opened.

Tomorrow a big crowd of those seeking warmth will seek the tabernacle, it is believed.

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MOVEMENT OF COAL PRINCIPAL OBJECT OF TRAFFIC CHIEFS

Director General McAdoo and Railroads' War Board Plan Immediate Action.

TAKE UP DEMAND OF MEN FOR AN INCREASE IN PAY

No Strike While Government Is Taking Control—President to Address Congress Thursday.

Immediate measures will be taken to relieve the coal shortage in New England and in New York, Director General McAdoo announced today.

Both the director general of railroads, William G. McAdoo, and the railroads' war board today devoted their principal attention to methods for obtaining the freer movement of coal.

Immediate action is planned to relieve the coal shortage in various parts of the country, particularly in New England. Use of water routes, between Hampton roads and New England ports, is advocated by the railroad men as one method of relieving the shortage in that section.

But coal is being rushed there via rail to take care of the immediate demands, made more imperative by the extreme cold.

New England Shortage Discussed.

The fuel shortage in New England was the principal topic discussed at a conference at Mr. McAdoo's office yesterday, which was attended by Dr. H. A. Garfield, fuel administrator; Interstate Commerce Commissioner Anderson, Walker D. Hines, newly appointed assistant to the director general; Edward Chambers, traffic director of the Federal Railroad Administration, and J. J. Starrow, fuel administrator of New England.

The wages of railroad employees under federal control was the other question which engaged Mr. McAdoo's attention today. He was in conference with representatives of the railroad men and laborers' mediation and conciliation division.

Plans raising the pay of the rank and file of railroad workers and reducing some of the very high salaries paid to executive officials were discussed. The board now has before it the pending demand for a 10 per cent increase in the wages of the rank and file of the four great brotherhoods.

It has been well known for some time that the government was disposed to grant some increase, and the railroad men in turn have given their word they will not attempt a strike while the government is taking hold of the railroad situation.

Heads of the four railway brotherhoods, who conferred with President Wilson last week, were summoned to confer on Thursday with the director general of railroads and the Interstate Commerce Commission building, and as soon as furniture can be installed the new headquarters will have his headquarters there.

C. C. McChord of the Interstate Commerce Commission has been assigned to the task of gathering reports on traffic conditions, with a view to working out a plan by which the tremendous traffic jam may be alleviated and future congestions avoided. Reports on transportation conditions are coming to him from all parts of the country.

By the end of the week Congress is expected to be well along in the task of framing legislation guaranteeing railroads competing for fair earnings of pre-war earnings. President Wilson is expected to go before Congress Thursday.

Differences to Be Arbitrated.

The administration plan for dealing with railroads refusing to accept a government guarantee of average earnings of the last three years, as proposed by the railroads, will be to refer the matter to the hands of a board of three arbitrators appointed by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

They would thresh out the questions of what would constitute fair earnings under the new conditions. In addition, any railroad would still have the constitutional right to take its case to a court.

It now seems probable that a government corporation will be formed to purchase equipment for leasing to roads, and to buy and sell securities issued by railroads. No special authority for this corporation will be given in the proposed legislation, however, all the powers of the Federal Railroad Administration will be given to the President, to be administered as he chooses. It is still undetermined what approval will be given to the purchase of equipment, but the amount probably will be between \$100,000,000 and \$200,000,000.

INCENTIVE FOR PRODUCTION.

New Wage Scale Also Means Big Pay for Miners.

MOUNT CARMEL, Pa., December 31.—The new wage scale for anthracite mine workers authorized by presidential proclamation has resulted in unprecedented production, and the highest wages in the history of the hard coal region.

Miners Saturday received their first pay under the new scale, and in many instances it ran as high as \$150 for the week's work, while some were said to have earned more than \$200 from December 1 to December 15. The average throughout the region was about \$70.

Laborers heretofore receiving from \$15 to \$25 for two weeks, are now earning from \$25 to \$40.

Gen. Allenby Advances 3 Miles.

LONDON, December 31.—The forces under Gen. Allenby in Palestine have advanced another three miles along the Nabulus road, according to the official statement, and after stubborn resistance have occupied Birah, the ancient name of which is Beeroth. The road from Hama to Nabulus was taken, and the line moved troops advanced to Khurbit, Irbah and Beeroth.

GETS TEN YEARS IN PRISON.

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TO ASK RELIEF FROM FREIGHT CONGESTION

District Commissioners to Place Local Situation Before Mr. McAdoo.

The District Commissioners at a board session today decided to ask Director General of Railroads McAdoo to take some action to relieve freight congestion in the District.

Although they will make no specific recommendations, the Commissioners will inform Mr. McAdoo that they believe the situation here merits attention.

The Commissioners acted after considering the report of the special committee appointed by Commissioner Brownlow two weeks ago to study the question.

The committee, which was made up of representatives of every interest involved in the hauling of freight, came to the conclusion after a careful study of the situation that Mr. McAdoo should appoint a freight administrator for Washington.

Delay of Consignees a Big Factor.

The members of the committee agreed that the delay of many consignees in removing their goods from the freight yards was a big factor in the congestion.

The committee reported that such an administrator could also eliminate delay by assisting consignees in locating their cars of goods both in the yards and at the platforms. It is probable that the Commissioners will acquiesce in Mr. McAdoo with the recommendations contained in the committee's report, which they took up at the board session today.

The committee also pointed out that the government should take special interest in relieving the freight situation here, as so many shipments for the federal departments and the quartermaster's office arrive here continually.

ST. LOUIS GETS HENDRICKS.

Signs Contract to Manage National League Base Ball Team.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

ST. LOUIS, December 31.—President Branch Rickey of the Cardinals today announced that John C. Hendricks, for four years manager to the Indianapolis American Association club, has signed a contract to manage the St. Louis National League team. Hendricks signed this morning following a conference with Rickey.

OPPOSE TEACHING GERMAN.

Pastors and Teachers of Missouri Synod Make Recommendation.

LINCOLN, Neb., December 31.—At a meeting held at St. Joseph, Neb., the pastors and teachers of the German Lutheran Church in Nebraska of the Missouri synod adopted resolutions of loyalty to the United States and recommended the cessation of German language instruction in all parochial schools of the state for the duration of the war. One of the leading parochial schools of the state, located here, will drop German language instruction tomorrow, and it is expected that other schools will adopt the same course.

To Give Hearing in Philadelphia.

The Federal Trade Commission today announced that the open hearings on the packing industry would be continued Thursday in Philadelphia with Commissioner Victor Murdock presiding.

PEACE PARLEY HOLDS UP FINNISH INDEPENDENCE

German Recognition, Chancellor Tells Senate, Depends on Russian Pact.

AMSTERDAM, December 31.—A delegation from the Finnish senate has visited Berlin and been received by Count von Hertling, the imperial chancellor, whom they asked for recognition by Germany of the independence of Finland, says a Berlin dispatch today.

The chancellor in reply said that the German people had great sympathy with the aspirations of the Finnish people, but that Germany's recognition of the independence of Finland depended upon an agreement in that respect being reached between Finland and the Russian government, with which Germany was at present negotiating.

TEACHERS' GOING THREATENS LOWER GRADES OF SCHOOLS

Commissioners Have Decided to Ask Congress for Higher Minimum Salary.

\$800 ANNUALLY IS PAY TO BE SOUGHT FOR THEM

Request Is Incorporated in Million-Dollar Deficiency Bill—Other D. C. Needs.

Confronted by the possibility of having to close some of the lower grades of the District's schools because of difficulty in obtaining teachers to replace those who have accepted positions with the government at higher salaries, the District Commissioners have decided to go to Congress with an urgent deficiency estimate of approximately \$300,000 with which to raise immediately the minimum pay of all teachers from \$600 to \$800 per annum, and also increase the wages of janitors and laborers.

This is but one item in the largest deficiency appropriation that will have ever been recommended by District Commissioners. The total, it is understood, will be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000. This is an increase of about \$750,000 over the largest previous urgent deficiency estimate.

While no intimation has been given by the Commissioners of what is incorporated in the estimates, and the items will not be discussed until they reach Congress, which probably will be this week, it is learned through authoritative sources that the Commissioners have made recommendations which are considered absolutely necessary to the efficient maintenance of the schools.

Schools Lose 125 Teachers.

Since September 1 the schools have lost 125 teachers. They have lost two-thirds of their laborers and more than two-thirds of their janitors. They have found it practically impossible to fill these vacancies at the salaries now obtaining.

Many of the teachers who have resigned had long service allowances, which made their minimum pay more than \$600. Some with the 10 per cent increase allowed by Congress. As the teachers who have come into them get nothing for longevity, the majority of the new teachers are being paid less than they did in September.

The schools are finding it more difficult every day to keep teachers. At the end of January 1, the positions at salaries ranging from \$900 to \$1,400. The increase sought will be to raise the minimum salary to \$800. If it is allowed by Congress it will make a difference of about \$100 a year in the minimum salary in the upper grades, in which the minimum basic salary is \$800. If it is allowed by Congress it will make a difference of about \$100 a year in the minimum salary in the upper grades, in which the minimum basic salary is \$800.

In view of the fact that the government itself is responsible for the shortage of teachers, the Commissioners believe that Congress will regard as unreasonable the request for an increase in the minimum salary of such employees. The minimum will be supplied with efficient teachers.

Pay of laborers in the schools ranges from \$25 to \$40 a month and of janitors from \$65 to \$70. These employees have been asked to accept a 10 per cent increase at the more lucrative prices caused by the war. Unless Congress provides for an increase in the minimum salary of such employees an already serious situation resulting from the wholesale resignations is expected to become steadily worse.

All District institutions have been hit hard by the shortage of the big and the urgent deficiency estimate is to enable them to meet increased costs of fuel, food and other supplies. It is understood that the deficiency bill will include additional pay for the maintenance of patients at the Government hospital for the insane, which recently put an increased rate into effect, and this deficiency the Commissioners are said to have included in the bill.

Water department finances also show a considerable deficiency requirement as a result of extensions to government buildings and other expenses due to the war, it is understood.

The deficiency budget has been sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, to whom it will be submitted to Congress.

U. S. Flier Killed.

Falls While Making Loop During Test Flight in Wind.

PARIS, December 31.—An American aviator was killed yesterday while making a test flight at an aviation center before French and American pilots and observation aviators. Although the wind was blowing violently he made a loop successfully, but attempting to repeat the feat he fell. He was dying when picked up, but insisted upon reporting to his American commander. He had his last breath in the observation which he had made.

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